

## **Policy Board**

**Minutes of the Meeting of September 29, 2010**

**R.I. Department of Administration**

**One Capitol Hill, Conference Room B**

**Providence, RI 02908**

### **MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:**

**Major Michael P. Quinn, Johnson & Wales University, (voting member), Chair**

**Mr. Jonathan Houston, Justice Assistance, (voting member)**

**Mr. John Hardiman, R.I. Public Defender, (voting member)**

**Ms. Gina Caruolo, designee of Director A.T. Wall, R.I. Department of Corrections,**

**(voting member)**

**Magistrate Joseph P. Ippolito, Jr., District Court of R.I., designee of Chief Judge Jeanne**

**LaFazia, (voting member)**

**Ms. Marisa White, Supreme Court of R.I., designee of Chief Justice Paul Suttell, (voting**

**member)**

**Deputy Attorney General Gerald Coyne, R.I. Department of Attorney General (designee**

**of Attorney General Patrick Lynch, (voting member)**

**Colonel Brendan P. Doherty, R.I. State Police, (voting member)**

**Ms. Debra DeBare, R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence (voting member)**

**Director Craig Stenning, R.I. Department of Behavioral Healthcare & Developmental**

**Disabilities, (voting member)**

**Mr. Robert O'Neil, Public Member, (voting member)**

**Mr. Daniel Knight, Salve Regina University, (voting member)**

**Presiding Justice Alice B. Gibney, Superior Court of R.I., (voting member)**

**Mr. Joseph Baxter, Supreme Court of Rhode Island**

**Ms. Lisa Holley, Esq., R.I. Department of Public Safety**

**Mr. Tom Connell, U.S. Attorney's Office**

**Mr. Teny Gross, Executive Director, Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-Violence**

**Ms. Robin Smith, R.I. Department of Health**

**PUBLIC SAFETY GRANTS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE (PSGAO):**

**Mr. Thomas Mongeau, Administrative Manager**

**Mr. David LeDoux, Supervisor of Management Services**

**Ms. Gail Pereira, Grant Manager**

**Mr. Joseph Persia, Grant Manager**

**1. WELCOME—Major Michael P. Quinn, Chairman of the Policy Board:**

**Major Quinn welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m.**

**The required quorum was present for the meeting.**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 30, 2010 MINUTES:**

**Deputy Coyne moved:**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 30, 2010 AS PRESENTED.**

**The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Neil.**

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

**3. REVISIT FY 2010 PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT PROGRAM: Discussion of Oversight as it Pertains to Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-Violence in the Program:**

**Ms. Gail Pereira reported that the Policy Board, at its last meeting, raised questions about the Streetworker component of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program. Mr. Teny Gross, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-Violence, is attending today's meeting to answer questions. Major Quinn added that the U.S. Attorney's office provides good oversight of this program.**

**Mr. Gross introduced himself and said that he is the program manager for Providence's Streetworker Project, which is considered one of the best in the country. The Institute has revised policies for other states and has developed programs in both New Haven and New Bedford. Mr. Gross stated that there is always a risk with working with streetworkers, as many are former gang members. However, the streetworkers are the only ones who can stop the**

violence. It is federal money and some city money that pays for the program at no cost to the state. Streetworkers are also assigned to the schools, and they meet weekly with the police.

Mr. Gross reported that, in his opinion, a streetworker was re-arrested recently as a result of doing his duty. They work with a high-risk population and are former defendants. However, as a result of this program, there has been a 90 percent reduction in incidents in the ACI. The program is a good opportunity for those who want to give back to society to do so. They have Board members mentor the streetworkers, and the Board is made up of criminal justice professionals.

Deputy Coyne stated that it is not the value of the Institute's program that is the concern; it is that we are spending public money. As a group, the Policy Board understands there is a risk, and we recognize that. With that risk, is there some oversight so that if or when something happens, can we state that this structure is in place. It is not the Policy Board's function to micromanage. If the U.S. Attorney's Office is monitoring, then Deputy Coyne stated that he is comfortable with that. Tom Connell said that they have had a relationship with the streetworker program since 2001, and he would like to see this program continue.

Joseph Persia commended Mr. Gross for all the good work he does in the City of Providence. He stated that the project also receives VOCA

grant funding, and he asked Mr. Gross to talk about how VOCA funds support this project. Mr. Gross explained that VOCA and other federal funds are also supplemented with private money. He also does fundraising, because the federal funds do not cover all the services they provide. In response to a question from Mr. Houston, Mr. Gross stated that U.S. Attorney Richard Gross is assigned to the program. Mr. Houston responded that he believes there is more than sufficient supervision. Colonel Doherty stated that the oversight committee for Safe Streets is Dean Robert McKenna, Gina Caruolo, and Monty Monteiro. Mr. Gross announced that they are opening a \$5.5 million renovation at St. Michael's. He invited everyone to come to the Institute and meet the staff. They also run a re-entry program for DCYF.

Major Quinn reintroduced the discussion and approval of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program and asked for a motion.

Public Defender Hardiman moved:

TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE FY 2010 PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT PROGRAM.

The motion was seconded by Ms. DeBare.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO ABSTENTIONS OR RECUSALS.

#### **4. DISCUSSION OF ADVISORY OPINION FROM ETHICS COMMISSION—Major Michael P. Quinn:**

Major Quinn stated that the Policy Board approached the Ethics Commission as a result of recusals by public members. This is a concern, because the Board often takes votes that require a quorum. Ms. Holley helped to prepare the questions for the Ethics Commission. Ms. Holley stated that a clear distinction was made by the Commission. The opinion is that it is within the duty of Directors to vote on these issues. Directors would not gain anything personally, so it is appropriate to vote. However, the rules are different with private organizations that sit at this table. They would not be able to vote. Director Stenning brought this issue up at a previous meeting, as a result of a memorandum from Rosemary Booth Gallogly stating that the directors are not to vote. Ms. Holley said that it is up to the Directors to apply the ethics opinion to guide your behavior vs. the directive in the memorandum. Major Quinn reiterated that Directors are not receiving anything personally from these grants.

#### **5. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF FY 2010 PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM—Gail Pereira:**

Ms. Pereira provided the background on the grant program. The full amount of the award is \$199,728. Previously, the grant funded programs for the R.I. Department of Health, the Medical Examiner's

Office, and the University of Rhode Island. This year, the Rhode Island State Police is interested in a portion of the funds. After removing 10 percent for grants administration, each of the four agencies will split the grant evenly and receive \$44,939. The Department of Health and the University of Rhode Island will use their funds for a quality assurance officer. The Medical Examiner will fund travel for training, equipment, and supplies. The R.I. State Police will fund a quality assurance officer and outside vendor for assessment testing and to reimburse an outside vendor for assessors.

Magistrate Ippolitto moved:

**TO APPROVE THE FY 2010 PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM AS PRESENTED.**

Director Stenning seconded the motion.

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO ABSTENTIONS OR RECUSALS.**

**6. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF FY 2010 VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AND FY 2009 ARRA VICTIMS ASSISTANCE GRANT ALLOCATIONS—Joseph Persia:**

Mr. Persia provided background information on the VOCA grant. This year's allocation to Rhode Island is \$1,491,000, which is \$300,000 less than last year. He added ARRA funds to the allocation for a total of

**\$1,727,720 to be sub-granted. The VOCA Advisory Committee cut each grant by about 5 percent. There are also three to four new programs that the committee deemed to have merit. The new programs are the East Bay Center, which will fund identity hate crimes; Family Services of Providence for their Academy; the R.I. State Police for a law enforcement victim advocate; and Sophia Academy for a date-rape program in partnership with Day One. Mr. Persia provided a synopsis of the East Bay Center's program. The Capitol City Community Center was formerly funded by VOCA, but has not applied for the past two years. They applied this year, but their program did not meet the standard set by the Advisory Committee and was therefore not recommended for funding. Colonel Doherty asked about the East Bay Center and its program. Mr. Persia stated that he previously met them and told them they were eligible for VOCA funding. Director Stenning added that they are the East Bay Mental Health Center. Director Stenning asked how stimulus money is being applied. Mr. Mongeau responded that some ARRA funding is mixed in with formula funds, such as the Day One project and the Rhode Island Child Advocate's project. The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence program is funded with \$152,170 in ARRA funds and \$85,822 of formula VOCA funds.**

**Major Quinn recommended voting separately on formula and ARRA funds. In response to a question from Ms. White, Mr. Mongeau stated that each program was cut 5 percent from what they received last year Ms. DeBare said that is difficult to accept a 5 to 7 percent cut on**



programs that are currently operating and doing a good job when new programs are being funded. Major Quinn asked if the VOCA Advisory Committee should follow the same protocol as the Criminal Justice Steering Committee, i.e., each program makes a presentation as to its merits and value. He asked what process the VOCA Advisory Committee follows, and is there an evaluation component in place.

Public Defender Hardiman moved:

TO FUND THE FY 2010 VOCA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM AS PRESENTED.

Director Stenning seconded the motion.

THE MOTION PASSED WITH MR. HOUSTON AND MS. DEBARE ABSTAINING AND COLONEL DOHERTY RECUSING.

Mr. Houston then moved:

TO APPROVE THE FY 2010 ARRA VOCA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM AS PRESENTED.

Director Stenning seconded the motion.

THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION FROM MS. DEBARE.

## **7. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF FY 2010 STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT PROGRAM—David LeDoux:**

**Mr. LeDoux reported that VAWA funding has remained steady over the course of the years, with a \$38,000 increase this year. The Office of Violence Against Women mandates the percentage allocations as follows: 10% for planning and administration, 30 percent for victim services, 15 percent discretionary—which has been allocated to victim services since the beginning of the grant program, 5 percent to the courts, 25 percent for prosecution, and 25 percent for law enforcement. The grant is funding same programs year after year. The victim service money goes to the R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its member agencies and Day One. OVW requires 10 percent of the 30 percent allocated for victim services for culturally specific programming. These programs are run by the Rhode Island Indian Council and Destiny House. A new RFP will go out for that portion of money. For the law enforcement allocation, since 1998 law enforcement victim advocates have been funded as well as training at the R.I. Municipal, Providence, and State Police Training Academy. A planning meeting will be held to discuss law enforcement training funds. Mr. LeDoux is asking for the Policy Board's approval for \$212,845 as recommended by the VAWA Advisory Committee.**

**Mr. Houston asked if the Public Safety Grants Administration Office received a response to the Policy Board's letter regarding using a portion of the funds for batterers' intervention programs. Mr.**

**Mongeau stated that they received a brief response from Congressman Kennedy's office. Mr. Houston said that Justice Assistance is receiving numerous referrals, but that clients cannot afford the classes, so they are being violated by the Court. He stated that this problem continues to be more prevalent. Mr. LeDoux stated that OVW is not likely to change its stance, because the intention of the law is to provide services for victims. He did state that batterers' programming could be funded with Byrne/JAG monies in the future. Magistrate Ippolitto stated that he does not violate anyone because they cannot afford to pay for batterers' programming; he simply extends the time rather than closing the case out. Major Quinn added that the Policy Board wrote to the Rhode Island congressional delegation as requested, and we may need to look to Byrne/JAG funding as another funding source.**

**Mr. O'Neil moved:**

**TO APPROVE THE FY 2010 STOP VAWA GRANT PROGRAMMING AS PRESENTED.**

**Magistrate Ippolitto seconded the motion.**

**THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE RECUSAL FROM MS. DEBARE.**

**NOTE: Ms. Holley clarified that if members are recusing pursuant to the Ethics Commission ruling, a "Statement of Conflict of Interest" is**

required. The forms are then forwarded to the Ethics Commission. She also stated that the abstentions by Mr. Houston and Ms. DeBare on the votes to approve the VOCA funded should be changed to recusals. This is noted for the record.

#### **8. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF FY 2010 SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT—David LeDoux:**

Mr. LeDoux stated that this is a fairly new program. This is second year Rhode Island is receiving this formula grant. The grant is intended for sexual assault service agencies, which in Rhode Island is Day One. Day One is partnering with local agencies including the John Hope Settlement Center, the International Institute, and PAL to provide programming for underserved populations. Day One has agreed to complete the application and be responsible for all reporting, so the PSGAO is not taking any administrative funds from the award.

Director Stenning moved:

**TO APPROVE THE FY 2010 SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT.**

Colonel Doherty seconded the motion.

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO ABSTENTIONS OR RECUSALS.**

## **9. NEW BUSINESS—Tom Mongeau:**

**Mr. Mongeau provided an update on the development of a statewide strategic plan. He said that he reached out to NCJA to request technical assistance. He provided them all the planning materials used for the Byrne grant planning. The green handout is the response from NCJA. They pointed out the need for more quantitative data. Mr. Mongeau spoke to the Deputy Director of NCJA. The strategic planning process is quite extensive, and they have technical assistance funds available to help Rhode Island. It will be a time-consuming process.**

**Major Quinn stated that the Steering Committee believes it is important to develop a more comprehensive strategic plan. It is worthwhile for the criminal justice system in the state as well as for the grant planning process. Mr. Mongeau told NCJA that Rhode Island has very limited resources and funding outside the Byrne monies. Ms. Holley pointed out that the handout recommends involving local universities in this process. She asked Mr. Knight if Salve Regina University might have student interns who could work on this project with data collection and analysis. This could keep the costs down and provide a worthwhile experience for students. Major Quinn agreed and said that Rhode Island is fortunate that it is a university-rich state. Mr. LeDoux reported that they began the planning process last year when the PSGAO was deluged with formula and ARRA grant funds. When the ARRA-funded programs**

run out of money in three years, this strategic plan will be important to help decide what programs will receive continuation funding.

Mr. LeDoux also reported on the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies/Community Defined Solutions. Rhode Island will be able to hire four new law enforcement advocates with the funding. He stated that there is a special condition to the grant regarding the state's compliance with mandatory HIV testing of offenders and providing that information to the victim. If the General Assembly does not pass this law, the state's award will be reduced by \$33,575. Mr. LeDoux reported that this program will be before the Policy Board for approval in early 2011.

There being no further business, Director Stennig moved:

**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

Colonel Doherty seconded the motion.

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, AND THE MEETING WAS  
ADJOURNED AT 9:41 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara J. Laird**

**Recorder**

**Approved by:**

**Thomas Mongeau**

**Administrative Manager**

**Major Michael P. Quinn**

**Chair**